"I am an idealist. 
I don't know where I'm going but I'm on my way."
Carl Sandburg

Alliance ALERT

This ALERT will function as a vehicle of communication between the Alliance and its members. It is our goal to provide timely and useful material in a readable, easy access format. Feel free to send in your announcements when you want to reach our constituency.

Elections Held: At the November membership meeting, the following Alliance officers were elected:
- President: Jayne Mackta
- Vice-President for Consumers: Desiree Dodson
- Vice-President for Professionals: Joan Burns
- Secretary: Jean-Paul Richard

We welcome the following new Directors:
- Charles F. Evans, Director of the Washington State Sickle Cell Program
- John Hinz, past Executive Director of the Arizona Governor's Committee on Developmental Disabilities
- Barbara Smith, Assistant Director of the Kidney Association of Oregon

We're Official: The Alliance has received its 501 (c)(3) status.

We're in Business: Joan O. Weiss is now the coordinator for the Alliance. Based in Washington, D.C., she is our favorite kind of idealist. She dreamed the dream of an Alliance and then dedicated her energy to making it a reality. Joan is hard at work coordinating, organizing, and inspiring the Board to keep moving.

New Telephone Number: The Alliance number is 202/331-0942.

Peer Counselor Training: A national workshop on peer counselor training programs for individuals and families affected by genetic disorders will be held in the District of Columbia in the spring of 1990. We are in the process of developing a peer counselor training manual based on existing, successful programs in which some of you are already involved. If you have a training program and experience to share, contact Joan.

Training Advocates: The Alliance is developing a program to train support group representatives identified with each of the ten regional genetics networks to serve as trainers. They will teach others how to participate in national, state and local legislative efforts on behalf of families affected by genetic disorders. Using materials helpful to existing organizations, we are assembling pertinent information and resources for new genetic support groups. If you have something to add, contact Joan.

Regional Alliance Groups: A major drive is underway to establish regional Alliance groups to carry out our goals and activities on a regional, and eventually, on a state level. We expect to provide a meaningful forum for sharing information on critical issues of common concern such as health care financing and insurance, employment discrimination, and genetics technology and services. These groups will be a resource for people seeking genetics services as well as information about local support groups.

The Alliance ALERT is a publication of the Alliance of Genetic Support Groups
38th and R Streets, NW, Washington, D.C. 20057 • Telephone: 202-331-0942